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VERIFICATION IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF VERIFICATION

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[Original: Russian]

[3 September 1992]

1. The radically changing context of the contemporary world is opening up new possibilities for the United Nations to realize its great potential. We are seeing an ever increasing number of members of the world community turn to the United Nations for assistance in solving their problems. This in turn raises the question of enhancing the Organization's machinery to enable it to react appropriately to the increasing demands made on it.

2. We regard the question of verification as an important area of United Nations activity and we are in favour of the creation of a verification infrastructure under its auspices.

3. In Russia the report of the Group of Qualified Governmental Experts to Undertake a Study on the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Verification was received with great interest. We believe that the proposals and recommendations made in that report could form the basis for further work on the formulation of an international verification strategy and the creation of the corresponding multilateral machinery.

4. In our opinion, the main criterion for such work must be its practicality. The action taken to date in this area has not been successful, largely because of attempts to approach the solution of the problem not from the standpoint of its importance for the maintenance of international peace and security but from positions of ideological confrontation.

5. We welcome the fact that broad mutual understanding concerning the role, forms and methods of verification is emerging today in the international community. We think that the verification principles formulated by the United Nations Disarmament Commission could serve as the starting-point for this undertaking. Moreover, considerable experience has been acquired in the implementation of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, the drafting of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, and the application of other bilateral and multilateral international treaties and agreements.

6. A start can be made by expanding the sphere of openness and trust, with the participation of the United Nations. Russia welcomes the current United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, as well as the Register of Conventional Arms to be introduced in 1993, and it confirms its readiness to furnish the relevant information.

7. We also support the proposal for the establishment in the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat of a data bank of published materials and data provided on a voluntary basis by Member States on all aspects of verification and compliance.

8. We believe that it is very important for the enhancement of the United Nations role in verification to carry out the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An agenda for peace" 1/ concerning the creation of an early-warning system on threats to peace in various areas - environmental, nuclear, demographic, etc.

9. Russia is ready to cooperate as closely as possible with all interested countries in order to assist the United Nations in its fact-finding missions. We could submit the required information to the Secretary-General and, if necessary, the appropriate technology as well, including satellite observation.

10. Russia and the United States have put forward a proposal for the establishment and joint operation of a global system for the protection of the world community. Such a system could inter alia help to improve the effectiveness of verification of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, as well as compliance with international obligations and treaties relating to such weapons, and the swift establishment of the facts of instances of military use or testing of missile weapons or the launching of weapons into outer space.

11. We attach cardinal importance to development of the processes of strengthening security and stability at the regional and subregional levels. In this connection we would welcome any action by the Organization to encourage regional measures for the reduction of military potentials and disarmament, as well as measures concerning suitable verification methods and procedures. There would be a clear function in this for the dissemination of the experience of individual regions - above all Europe - where the greatest progress has been made in the implementation of such measures.

12. Russia believes it is essential to continue a comprehensive multilateral dialogue on ways and means of creating verification machinery and it is ready to take part in further constructive discussion of possible initiatives and proposals for the enhancement of international cooperation in this area.

Notes

1/ A/47/277-S/24111.